

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100230052-6

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

CIA/OCI

WHIZWH 740412

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

SLA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

SENSITIVE

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMARA.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-4

DATE: 12 APRIL 1974

SUBJECT: THE FALL OF TONLE CHAM

REF:

25X1C

GVN OFFICIALS HAVE CON-

CLUDED THAT BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS TOOK THE TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP WITHOUT LAUNCHING GROUND ATTACKS, THE RANGERS PROBABLY STRUCK AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO LEAVE THE CAMP AND PASS UNMOLESTED THROUGH THEIR LINES.

THE CAMP'S COMMANDER REQUESTED APPROVAL TO LEAVE THE CAMP FROM GENERAL THUAN, MILITARY REGION 3 COMMANDER. SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 21, THUAN REPORTEDLY REFUSED BUT SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE GARRISON WENT ON RADIO SILENCE AND LEFT THE CAMP TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO AN LOC.

IN RETALIATION, FOR THE LOSS OF TONLE CHAM, PRESIDENT THIEU AUTHORIZED HEAVY AIRSTRIKES AGAINST THE COMMUNIST'S LOC WITHIN

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

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DISTRICT CAPITAL TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 12.

THE TONLE CHAN CAMP HAS BEEN UNDER SEIGE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO FREQUENT SHELLINGS SINCE THE START OF THE CEASE-FIRE IN JANUARY 1973. THE CAMP WAS IMPORTANT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION ASTRIDE INFILTRATION ROUTES. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY USED TO GET CLOSER TO SAIGON. SOME EARLIER PROPOSALS TO GET THE HANGERS OUT OF TONLE CHAN BY STRIKING A LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS WERE REJECTED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. E-2 IMPDET.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: CAP DIV AND NIO

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

DATE: 12 APR 74
 ORIG: [REDACTED] /MHS
 UNIT: CTA OPS CTR
 EXT: 4200

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